



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
CHICAGO DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
NORTHBROOK AREA OFFICE  
666 DUNDEE ROAD, SUITE 1605  
NORTHBROOK, ILLINOIS 60062



August 10, 1999

Northbrook Area Office

SUBJECT: NL/Taracorp NPL Superfund Site

Sheri L. Bianchin  
United States Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 5  
77 West Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago, Illinois 60604-3590

Dear Ms Bianchin:

In response to your letter dated 27 July 1999 reference the NL/Taracorp NPL Superfund Site. We have reviewed the contractor's costs for 1998 with the following findings;

The majority of the crafts received pay raises between 1997 and 1998. This wage increases ranged from 3% to 34.6% per hour. The laborers, which are the bulk of the contractor's payroll, received a pay increase of 12.41% per hour.

A review of the excavation requirements show that the lots with the higher costs required 6 to 12 inches of material to be removed.

- a. Discussions were held with the field personnel, who were on site during the excavation operation, to determine if there were changes in the contractor's operation during 1998. As a result of these discussions there did not appear to be a change in the contractor's operation during 1998. The field personnel did, however, indicate there was more hand excavation required during this period.
- b. The costs, which you have been provided with, for Delivery Order No. 0011 include the costs for the demobilization and closing of the contractor's on site facility. These are a cost of doing business, however, since there were only 26 lots cleaned under this delivery order these costs substantially increase the cost per lot average.

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.

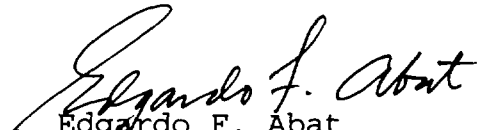


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Based on the above findings the increased costs for the individual lots is a result of the increase in wages, the added hand excavation required on a number of the lots and the costs for demobilization and closure of the contractor's on site facilities. Additionally, in the total cost for 1998 the 2,851 samples collected and analyzed are not all associated with the 147 lots cleaned during 1998.

Should you have any question concerning the above please contact the undersigned at (847) 205-4540.

Sincerely,

  
Edgardo F. Abat  
Civil Engineer  
Northbrook Area Office